



December 2006

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties
www.ebcnps.org

PLANT FAIR A BIG SUCCESS

There was something for everyone at the wonderful East Bay CNPS Native Plant Fair on October 28-29: fourteen thousand native plants, blue skies, talks on California horticulture and botany, string band music, bulbs, conservation news, books, seeds, ceramics, instant raffles, photographs, soaps, classical flute music, invasive weeds information, valet plant transportation, textiles, publications, and face painting.

We were thrilled to introduce hundreds of people to Native Here Nursery and its amazing stock of locally native plants, and happy that the event made money for the chapter, as well. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who attended and made this event a success, and especially to the many volunteers who prepared the nursery, propagated plants, made signs, organized volunteers, designed flyers, created publicity, ordered books, gave advice, handled the holding area, wrote receipts, cashiered, counted money, directed traffic, delivered plants, took photos, and made the myriad arrangements that made the fair so successful. We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you!

The Native Plant Fair Committee

GALLERY OF PHOTOS TAKEN BY VOLUNTEERS AT THE FAIR



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Native Here, p. 8

December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Fridays, Native Here open 9–noon

December 2, Friday and December 29th, Saturday, seed sowing at Native Here

December 3, 9, 16, 23, 30, Saturdays, Native Here open 10–1

CNPS Statewide Meetings in East Bay, December 8, 9, and 10, 2006. See article below.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

To avoid schedule conflicts with the winter holidays, there will be no membership meeting in December. We will resume in January, and we have a great line-up of speakers for the next few months.

Wednesday, January 25, 2007, 7:30 pm (in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library):

Nevin Smith, author of *Native Treasures: Gardening with the Plants of California*,

“Plant Encounters in the California Outback—a personal account of the joys and challenges of exploring the native landscape, working with its plant treasures, and bringing them to California gardeners”.

Wednesday, February 28, 2007, 7:30 pm (in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library):

Field Trips, p. 4

Sunday December 10, 10 am, **Forrest Deaner Botanic Garden/Benicia State Park**

Sunday, December 10, 9:30 am, Chapter Council Tour of UC Botanical Garden

Sunday, January 7, 2:00 pm, **Huddart County Park, San Mateo County**

William R. (Bill) Graves, Professor, Department of Horticulture, Iowa State University,
“Western Leatherwood: A Bay Area Treasure”.

Wednesday, March 28, 2007, 7:30 pm (in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library):

Doris Sloan, author of *Geology of the San Francisco Bay Region*, “Highlights of the Geology of the San Francisco Bay Region”.

Happy Solstice!

Sue Rosenthal

STATEWIDE CNPS MEETING

CNPS Statewide Meetings in East Bay December 8, 9, and 10, 2006

East Bay Chapter members are invited to participate in a variety of activities associated with the CNPS Board of Directors and Chapter Council December meetings.

The Horticulture core group will meet on Friday afternoon, December 8. For information, contact Peigi Duvall, cnpsshort@comcast.net.

On the evening of Friday, December 8, a presentation by Nancy Schaefer, Land Conservation Services, on upland habitat goals will complement Heath Bartosh, East Bay Chapter Rare Plant Chair, talking about using Geographic Information Systems to identify and analyze priority protection areas. This is a chance to find out more about Rare Plant, Vegetation and Conservation goals in the Bay Area, and to meet people from other nearby chapters who share this interest. Contact Lech Naumovich conservation@ebcnps.org to register and receive meeting location information.

On Saturday, December 9, the Chapter Council will meet in the Seaborg Room at the Faculty Club, University of California, Berkeley. The meeting will run from 8:30 am until about 5 pm with a lunch break. Each chapter may be represented, and members are encouraged to come and observe.

Three separate opportunities to meet CNPS members from around the state are provided on Sunday morning:

Vegetation Workshop—CNPS Vegetation Ecologist Julie Evens, East Bay Chapter Vegetation Chair Erin McDermott, and EB Rare Plant Chair Heath Bartosh will lead a walk starting at 9 am and running to 1 pm at Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, just northeast of Mount Diablo. The workshop will investigate the variety of vegetation found at a CNPS method to survey vegetation (Rapid Assessment). Black Diamond is noted as the northernmost occurrence of Coulter pine. Expect to see several species of manzanita in a rich chaparral community. A plant list for Black Diamond Mines can be found on the web at ebparks.com/resources/pdf/plan_stew/plants/BLACK_DI.PDF.

Meet at the parking area at the end of Somersville Road at 9:00 am. Take Highway 4 to the Somersville Road exit in Antioch. Drive south on Somersville Road (a few miles) to the Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve entrance. There is a \$5 entrance fee to the Preserve. Go past the Park Office and drive approximately one mile more till you reach the end of the road and the parking area. The walk will be around two miles in length.

University of California Botanical Garden Tour—Garden curator Holly Forbes will lead this morning garden tour starting at 9:30 am, featuring the extensive section of the garden devoted to California native plants. Chapter council attendees and East Bay chapter members will learn about the garden's conservation projects. For directions to the garden, see the website botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu. The parking entrance is

uphill to the left and just beyond the traffic light for the garden entrance. Bring \$\$ for parking and garden admission.

Forest Deaner Botanic Garden/Benicia State Park—starts at 10 am. Tim Sullivan, Garden Curator, and Norma Deaner will introduce us to this public botanic garden in the early stages, and discuss the horticultural challenges and rewards of native gardening in a recreational park setting. There will be few plants in bloom, so this foray will also cover the formation and future development plans of the garden, which coexists with recreation, picnics, historic areas, and the direction of the state park. Members of the Willis Linn Jepson chapter will share their insights from creating a native plant garden that requires CEQA statements for shade structures,

benches, and new trees, but also enjoys the collaboration of state park volunteers.

From points west of the Bay Hills, take Highway 80 East past the Carquinez Straits Bridge, and then exit at 780 East towards Benicia. From 780 East, take the Columbus Parkway exit, and shortly after the exit turn left into the entrance for Benicia State Recreation Area. Meet Tim Sullivan and Norma Deaner at the garden after driving about one mile past the park gate. There is a picnic area adjacent to the garden on the right. Bring \$4 or a state parks pass.

Charli Daniels, Chapter Council Vice-Chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership Challenge—We need your renewals!

All CNPS chapters have been challenged to increase chapter membership by 20%. Our chapter had 1121 members in August. We need to grow by 224 members!

If we all renewed our memberships, we would be at record levels—but for every new member we add, we lose at least one.

We have added 85 members over 2006. We average about 6 new members a month, and we often get boosts when we have promotions at various events.

The most productive event is our annual plant sale. This year we signed up 23 new members. There was an instant raffle promotion for anyone who joined or renewed at the fair. **Thanks to East Bay Nursery in Berkeley and Jean Robertson, Earthly Delights Landscaping, for offering generous**

gift certificates for the grand prizes. Other prizes were CNPS posters, patches and magnifying glasses.

Other good recruitment events include these:
San Francisco Flower and Garden Show
Oakland Museum Wildflower Show
Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

Please consider contributing ideas and effort towards this campaign. Do you think it would be good to send a beautiful postcard to everyone who renews and a reminder to those who lapse? Can you make address labels on your computer?

Would you like to help? Please contact Delia Taylor at 510-527-3912 or deliataylor@mac.com.

Delia Taylor

THE WAYNE RODERICK LECTURES

The Wayne Roderick Lectures, winter 2006–2007, at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Wildcat Canyon Road and South Park Drive (South Park Drive is closed November–March) in Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley, 510-841-8732, bgarden@ebparks.org, www.nativeplants.org

Saturday Mornings 10:30, free. Seating is limited. To be sure of a seat, come early and save a chair.

December

2 Central California Indian Basketry—Ralph and Lisa Shanks

9 Spring highlights of Not-so-southern Southern California, San Luis Obispo to LA—Bob Case
16 The Mt. Hamilton Region—Steve Edwards
23 East Bay Natural History at First European
Contact—Steve Edwards

Don't forget: free tours of the botanic garden every Saturday and Sunday at 2:00

VEGETATION COMMITTEE

On October 21 Julie Evens and Anne Klein, both State CNPS vegetation ecologists, led a workshop on vegetation sampling techniques for members of the East Bay CNPS Vegetation Committee. We learned about the history of vegetation sampling in the US and California, the goals of data collection and vegetation classification, and how to carry out the CNPS Releve vegetation sampling protocol. The workshop took place on the south side of Mt Diablo, near Knobcone Point. About 1.5 miles from the Curry Point trailhead after you pass through

grassland and oak woodland, the Knobcone Point Trail climbs along the ridge and you enter chaparral. The trail is lined with both Mount Diablo manzanita (*Arctostaphylos auriculata*), which has grayish, hairy leaves with a heartshaped base, and common manzanita (*Arctostaphylos manzanita*), which has bright green leaves. Mount Diablo manzanita is listed in the *CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants* as List 1B (rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere) and is known only from Contra Costa County in the

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Vegetation Committee

vicinity of Mount Diablo. Mount Diablo manzanita blooms from January to March with gorgeous light pink flowers, and the Knobcone Point Trail is an excellent place to see this color display.

Just downslope to the south of the trail, there is a section of chaparral that was probably burned in the last 5 years. Black-charred skeletons of common manzanita are present and there is thick undergrowth of shrubs that resprouted from root crowns or germinated from seeds after the burn. We set up a circular 400 square meter plot in the burned chaparral and collected data on the elevation (1,640 feet), slope, aspect, GPS location, and soil. We estimated the percent cover of all the species found in the plot. The plot was dominated by chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) and buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*) with subdominants of yerba mansa (*Eriodictyon californicum*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), and common manzanita. Based on the data we collected, we assigned the name "chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) and buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*) alliance" to the vegetation type. One thing we learned is that it is easy to overestimate percent cover. For example, even



though chamise and buckbrush were the dominant shrubs, they only had 15% and 28% cover respectively. Also at first glance, the vegetation looked very diverse, but upon closer examination of what plant species were there, it became clear that it was dominated by only two species. The data we collected will be incorporated into a statewide database used to classify, map and track vegetation types. The weather was gorgeous, the black sage smelled wonderful, and we all had a good time. Special thanks to Julie and Anne, who traveled all the way from Sacramento to lead the workshop.

The Vegetation Committee will be going out into the field and collecting vegetation data in 2007, mostly on weekends. If you are interested in helping to collect this valuable information, please contact me via email at

erinmcd2004@yahoo.com.

Photo Info: From left to right: Sue Wilson, Erin McDermott, Lech Naumovich, Heath Bartosh, Chris Thayer, Anne Klein (standing), Gregg Weber. Photo by Julie Evens.

Erin McDermott

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday December 10, 10 am, **Forrest Deaner Botanic Garden/Benicia State Park**

Garden Curator Tim Sullivan and Norma Deaner will introduce us to this public botanic garden in the early stages of development and discuss the horticultural challenges and rewards of native gardening in a recreational park setting. There will be few plants in bloom in December, so this foray will also cover the formation and future development plans of the garden, which coexists with recreation, picnics, and historic areas, as well as the direction of the state park. Members of the Willis Linn Jepson chapter will share their insights on creating a native plant garden that requires CEQA statements for shade structures, benches, and new trees, but also enjoys the collaboration of state park volunteers.

Directions: From points west of the Bay Hills, take 80 East past the Carquinez Straits Bridge and then exit at 780 East towards Benicia. From 780 East, take the Columbus Parkway exit and shortly after the exit turn left onto the entrance for the Benicia State Recreation Area. Meet Tim Sullivan and Norma Deaner at the garden after driving about one mile past the park gate. There is a picnic area adjacent to the garden on the right. Bring \$4.00 or a state parks pass.

Sunday December 10, 9:30 am, **Chapter Council Tour of UC Botanical Garden**

Garden curator Holly Forbes will lead this morning garden tour, featuring the extensive section of the garden devoted to California native plants. Chapter council attendees and

East Bay chapter members will learn about the conservation efforts of the Garden. For directions to the garden, see the website botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu. The parking entrance is uphill, to the left and just beyond the traffic light for the garden entrance. Bring \$\$\$ for parking and garden admission.

Sunday, January 7, 2:00 pm, **Huddart County Park, San Mateo County**

Our annual search for fetid adder's tongue (*Scoliopis bigelovii*). This strange looking member of the lily family seems to bloom earliest (outside of botanic gardens) in this park. We should find flowers just peeking out of the ground, a sign that a new season has started.

Directions: coming to Huddart from the north (San Francisco) or the south (San Jose), use Highway 280. Turn off at the Woodside Road (Highway 84) exit. Turn westbound (towards Woodside). Proceed approximately 1.5 miles through the town of Woodside. Turn right on Kings Mountain Road. Proceed up the hill to the main park entrance. Park in the lot just past the entrance kiosk. (Be sure to pay the parking fee whether or not the kiosk is attended.)

We will hike the Crystal Springs trail down into the canyon. In addition to fetid adder's tongue, there are usually mushrooms, and, of course, winter identification of trees and shrubs.

Contact David Margolies if you need more information (510-654-0283, 510-393-1858 on the day of the hike, divaricatum@comcast.net). The hike will take place regardless of the weather.

Janet Gawthrop

Board of Directors

President
Elaine P. Jackson
925-372-0687
Elainejx@mindspring.com

Vice President
Laura Baker
510-849-1409
Lbake66@aol.com

Treasurer
Holly Forbes
hforbes@berkeley.edu
h 510-234-2913
w 510-643-8040
FAX 510-642-5045

Recording Secretary
Barbara Malloch Leitner
925-253-8300
bleitner@pacbell.net

Corresponding Secretary
George McRae
510-233-7374
elegans@aol.com

Past President
Joe Willingham
510-841-4681
pepe1066@comcast.net

Education/Outreach
Bay Leaf Editor and Webmaster
Joe Willingham
510-841-4681
pepe1066@comcast.net

Bay Leaf Mailing
Holly Forbes
510-234-2913
hforbes@berkeley.edu

Education
Linda Hill
510-849-1624
Lhillink@aol.com

Field Trips
Janet Gawthrop
_janetg24@excite.com
Gardens

Regional Parks Botanic Garden
Liaison
Sue Rosenthal
510-496-6016
rosacalifornica@earthlink.net

Grants
Sandy McCoy
sandymccoy@mindspring.com

Hospitality
open

Membership
Delia Taylor
510-527-3912
deliataylor@mac.com

Plant Sale
Interim Chair
Sue Rosenthal
510-496-6016
rosacalifornica@earthlink.net

Programs
Sue Rosenthal
510-496-6016
rosacalifornica@earthlink.net

Publicity/Media
George McRae
510-549-0211
elegans@aol.com

Conservation
Conservation Committee Chair
Laura Baker
510-849-1409
Lbake66@aol.com

Conservation Analyst (Staff)
Lech Naumovich
510 734-0335
conservation@ebcnps.org

Stewardship
Native Plant Restoration Team
Greg Wolford
510-848-6489
californica@mac.com

Native Here Nursery
Charli Daniels Project Manager
Margot Cunningham Sales Manager
510-549-0211
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Plant Science
Bryophytes
John Game
510-527-7855
jcgame@lbl.gov

Rare Plants
Heath Bartosh
925-957-0069
hbartosh@nomadecology.com

Unusual Plants
Dianne Lake
510-741-8066
diannelake@yahoo.com

Vegetation
Erin McDermott
erinmcd2004@yahoo.com
(c) 510-701-2890

Members at Large
Carol Castro
510-352-2382
carollbcastro@hotmail.com

Gregg Weber
510-223-3310

Roy West
rwest@monocot.com
650-906-1100

California Native Plant Society East
Bay Chapter
PO Box 5597, Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705

Chapter web site
www.ebcnps.org

Recorded Chapter Information
510-549-0211

State CNPS web site
www.cnps.org

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

____ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

____ Other _____

E-mail _____
(optional)

Membership category:

- ☐ Student, limited income, \$25
- ☐ Individual, Library, \$45
- ☐ Household, Family, or Group, \$75
- ☐ Supporting, \$75
- ☐ Plant lover, \$100
- ☐ Patron, \$300
- ☐ Benefactor, \$600
- ☐ Mariposa Lily, \$1500

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816

PLANT SALE ACTIVITIES



Those who were able to attend know the Native Plant Fair on October 28-29 was a very lovely event. Many people who had never been to Native Here Nursery had their first introduction through the fair. The weather was balmy (at least on Saturday), the nursery was beautiful and well-stocked with a wide array of local native plants as well as some horticultural favorites like California fuchsia, and the pace and ambience were relaxed and mellow (well, maybe not on the street for the first couple of hours, but we did our best with traffic). We sold lots of plants, bulbs, seeds, and books; shared information about many aspects of gardening with natives through talks by experts; learned about conservation and invasive plants at the CNPS and California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) booths; and enjoyed live music, plant-related crafts, photography, and publications. We are

enormously grateful to all who made this event possible: volunteers, speakers, vendors, musicians, and East Bay Regional Park District and Tilden Park Golf Course staff.

As of early November, we believe we're still on track to have a lease signed with the city of Oakland by the end of the year for a new location for our native plant nursery and annual sale on the grounds of the Dunsmuir Estate in Oakland. For the latest news, visit the project web site: <http://www.monocot.com/cnps>.

As always, feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments about the plant sale: rosacalifornica@earthlink.net or 510-496-6016.

Sue Rosenthal

NATIVE HERE NURSERY

The nursery looked its best the two days of the Plant Fair. The sunny weather held through the first day of the fair. Thanks to the watering efforts of Janice Bray, Diana Pickworth, Shirley McPheeters and the Danielsens, all the plants came through the summer and fall in great shape.

Tuesdays were lots of fun, with seed collecting crew (Mel Erskine, Gregg Weber, Janice Bray, Jim Sharp, Charli Daniels and sometimes others) returning in the early afternoon to have a brief visit with the plant sale propagators (Shirley McPheeters, Toni Montez, Bertha McKinley, Marguerite Harrell and Sandy Hill usually) who had been working with John Daniels through the morning.

Margot did a masterful job of keeping track of the various accounts at the Plant Fair and training cashiers. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated employee.

Now Native Here is gearing up for participation in "Bringing Back the Natives" Garden Tour in May. Seeds collected

throughout the spring and summer of 2006 are being sown, bulbs transplanted, annuals sown, as well as seedlings transplanted into larger pots. Volunteers are always welcome whenever the nursery is open, and at other times by arrangement.

Nursery hours in December will be Fridays, 9 am to noon, and Saturdays, 10 am to 1 pm. There are still plants ready for sale, and more growing all the time. Saturday, December 2nd, and again Friday, December 29th I will be demonstrating seed sowing techniques, and training volunteers for that task.

Now that more of you know about Native Here, come on by!

Charli Daniels

**California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705**

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